

Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1943

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 24th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 10/44 dated February 15th, 1944.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 10,721.

Population—Estimated Mid. 1943—10,640

Area, 94,511 Acres

Rateable Value : £49,000

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £197 0 0

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1943 : 3,100.

Births, 1943.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	116	97	213	(26 Illegitimate)
Still	3	4	7	(1 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1943.		England and Wales	
Live	20.0	Live	16.5
Still	0.65	Still	0.54

Birth Rate		Average last 10 years	15.03
England and Wales		„ „ 10 „	15.04
Deaths : Males, 69.	Females 70.	Total, 139.	

Death Rate	(1943) 13.6	Average last 10 years	11.2
England and Wales	„ 12.1	„ „ 10 „	12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 5
Females 2. Total, 7.

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	32.8
England and Wales	49.0
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years	48.3
England and Wales „ „ 10 „	55.8

Rivers, Streams and Ponds.

Berwick Bassett pond is still being fouled by drainage from two adjacent farms. During 1942 Statutory Notices were served on the occupiers of the farms but owing to difficulties in obtaining a Contractor nothing has been done. The Agents are willing to carry out a drainage scheme as soon as possible.

Public Cleansing.

The Aldbourne and Ramsbury Schemes of house to house collection of dry domestic refuse once a month have been working satisfactorily. During the year similar schemes were started again in the village areas of Little Bedwyn, Chisbury, Great Bedwyn, Grafton, Shalbourne, Fyfield, Lockeridge, Overton, Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton, and quarterly collections in the village areas of Baydon, Chilton Foliat and Froxfield. It is hoped to arrange for monthly collections in all cases and to include Mildenhall and Ogbourne St. George.

The refuse pits at Aldbourne and Ramsbury are almost filled up and other pits are being sought, but this is proving difficult.

Although the above is better than I was able to report last year I consider it entirely unsatisfactory and not sufficient for the district. As I have frequently reported in the past, e.g. 1936 and 1937, I consider that nothing short of a house to house collection by direct labour of the Council together with controlled tipping and at far more frequent intervals than is now done will be satisfactory ; I hope one of the first things the Council will do after the War will be the purchase of a good collecting vehicle and a weekly collection of all household refuse which will be properly tipped and controlled and not deposited in pits and odd places all through the district.

Special Legislation and Legal Action.

Nothing to report.

Housing.

One Statutory Notice was served in respect of a cottage in Ham Lane, Shalbourne, which had a dilapidated thatch roof. This was remedied during the year.

Out of 140 houses inspected during the year, 60 were found not to be fit for habitation in all respects and 44 of these have been made fit as a result of informal action.

Overcrowding.

4 cases which came to light during the year were dealt with and abated, though this does not give the complete state as regards overcrowding in the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections. 1	No. of Defects. 2	Informal Notices. 3	Statutory Notices. 4	Remedied by 3. 5	Remedied by 4. 6	Remedied after verbal instructions only. 7
Nuisances ...	276	140	58	1	24	1	42
Slaughter- houses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is pre- pared ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkstores }	213	47	24	—	20	—	19
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	26	2	—	—	—	—	2
Butcher's Shops ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	529	189	82	1	44	1	63

Milk and Dairies.

Number of wholesale producers registered	.....	.....	.....	133
Number of Retail Purveyors registered	.....	.....	.....	45
Approx. No. of Cows	.....	.....	.....	5100

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of registered slaughterhouses	}	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Number of licensed slaughterhouses		.....	.....	.....
Notices received of regular slaughter	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Notices received of casual slaughter	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
No. of condemnations, Meat	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Do. other foods in shops, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	5

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	69	70	Appendicitis		2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Other digest. diseases ..	3	2
Cerebrospinal Fever ..			Nephritis	2	3
Scarlet Fever .. .			Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Whooping Cough .. .	1		Other maternal causes ..		
Diphtheria			Premature birth	2	2
Tuberc. of Respir. syst. ..	2		Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.		1
Other form of Tuberc.			Suicide		
Syphilitic Diseases ..			Road Traffic Act	1	2
Influenza	3	2	Other violent causes ..	1	1
Measles			All other causes ..	9	6
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.			Total	5	2
Cancer of b. cav; and			Legitimate	4	2
oesoph (M.) 1			Illegitimate	1	
uterus (F)			Live Births		
Cancer of stomach and			Total	116	97
duodenum	1	2	Legitimate	100	87
Cancer of breast		2	Illegitimate	16	10
Cancer of all other sites ..	6	7	Stillbirths		
Diabetes		1	Total	3	4
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	4	8	Legitimate	2	4
Heart disease	23	17	Illegitimate	1	
Other dis. of circ. syst. ..	2	5	Population		10,640
Bronchitis	2	4			
Pneumonia	3	2			
Other Resp. diseases ..	1	1			
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2				
Diarrhœa under two years					